

and eating. Sixty persons more or less are
 guests here.
 Every one coming into the valley is received,
 and horses
 are stabled while men are fed. Outside,
 sheep and
 "fowls are being continually killed, two or
 three sheep
 being^tequired daily; mules are departing
 for Diza for
 stores, of jtre returning with flour and sugar;
 oxen are
 bringing in hay, and perpetual measuring
 and weighing
 are going on. The cost of provisioning such
 an army of
 guests is enormous, and presses heavily on
 the Patriarch's
 slender resources. Intrigues are rife. In
 some ways
 very man's hand is against his fellow, and
 the succes-
 on to the Patriarchate, although nominally
 settled, is
 a subject of scheming, plotting, rivalries, and
 jealousies.
 ,Then there are various appointments, secular
 and spiritual,
 to be wrangled for, the difficult relations with
 Turkey to
 be managed, and such a wavering policy to
 be shaped
 towards Eome and American Presbyterianism
 as shall
 absolutely break Vrith neither.

Among the guests who come and go as they
 please,
 unquestioned, are refugees from the
 barbarities of the
 Kurds, among the most pitiable of whom is
 Mar-----

,
 Bishop of-----, bereft under threat of
 death of his
 Episcopal seal, and a fugitive from his
 diocese, which
 is almost destroyed by violence and
 exactions. Few
 hours pass in .which some fresh tale of
 bloodshed, or
 the driving off of flocks, or the attacking of

travellers,
or the digging into houses, is not brought
up here. A
piteous state of alarm prevails. Mar Shimun,
naturally
feeble and irresolute, and his family council
are helpless.
His dual position aggravates his
perplexities. Counsels
are divided and paralysed. *No* one knows
where to turn
for help on earth, and "the Lord is deaf,"
some of the
people say.

On entering the house by an archway,
where the
heavily-bossed door stands always open, a
busy scene is